

A1  
Figure 1 is a block diagram indicating the system in filtering e-mail to identify content in accordance with the present invention.

In the Abstract,

Please enter the following substitute paragraph. A marked up copy of the paragraph is shown in the Appendix to this Amendment.

A2  
A file content classification system includes a digital ID generator and an ID appearance database coupled to receive IDs from the ID generator. The system further includes a characteristic comparison routine identifying the file as having a characteristic based on ID appearance in the appearance database. In a further aspect, a method for identifying a characteristic of a data file comprises the steps of: generating a digital identifier for the data file and forwarding the identifier to a processing system; determining whether the forwarded identifier matches a characteristic of other identifiers; and processing the data file based on said step of determination.

In the Claims,

Please delete Claims 5 and 16.

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 10, 18-23, 25, 27, 28 and 30.

A copy of claims 1, 6, 10, 18-23, 25, 27, 28 and 30 showing the amendments is attached in the Appendix.

The claims are reproduced in full below for your convenience.

- A3
1. A file content classification system comprising:  
a plurality of digital content ID generators provided on a plurality of devices;  
an ID appearance database coupled to receive digital content IDs from the digital content ID generators; and